

Public Announcement

Great Lakes-Big Rivers Region
Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2012

Prescribed Fires Planned At Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge

The Fire Management staff at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is planning to accomplish prescribed fires as part of the on-going wildlife habitat management program at the Refuge. The prescribed fires will be conducted within both the public use and restricted areas of the Refuge beginning in November of 2012 and continuing through April of 2013. During hunting seasons, information signs will be posted to inform hunters of possible burn dates at the planned prescribed burn units. Individual burn dates will be determined by appropriate weather conditions.

Firefighter and public safety is the first priority of our Fire Management Program. Fires will be ignited when environmental factors such as temperature, wind direction, relative humidity, and fuel moisture levels are within a very specific range. Fire is an essential part of many healthy ecosystems. Prescribed fire improves forest health and wildlife habitat by encouraging oak-hickory regeneration; reduces shade tolerant species, such as maple and beech; maintains or improves open land habitat; and reduces hazardous fuels and the risk of wildfires.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page, follow our tweets, watch our YouTube Channel, and download photos from our Flickr page.

If you are interested in additional information, please contact Kevin Sloan, Acting Refuge Manager, at (618) 998-5942, or Ray Parrish, Fire Management Specialist, at (618) 998-5919.

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